

REMARKS

In the outstanding Official Action, it was suggested that section headings be provided in the specification. In response, Applicants acknowledge this suggestion, but respectfully decline to add the suggested headings as they are not required in accordance with MPEP §608.01(a).

On the merits, claims 2, 6-7, 14 and 18-19 were deemed to be allowable if placed in independent form, while the remaining claims were rejected under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by the cited art, for the reasons of record.

In response, and in order to place the instant application in condition for allowance, claims 2 and 14 are herewith cancelled, without prejudice, and claims 1, 6, 7, 18 and 19 have been amended. More particularly, independent claim 1 is herewith amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 2, such that amended claim 1 now presents the allowable subject matter of claim 2 in independent form. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1, and the remaining claims depending therefrom, are now clearly patentably distinguishable over the cited and applied art and entitled to allowance.


The remaining claim amendments are of an editorial nature, primarily to correct claim dependency in view of the cancellation of claims 2 and 14, and in this regard it is noted

that claim 8 is now of like scope to that of now-cancelled claim 14 in view of the additional limitation added to claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the currently-pending claims, as herein amended, now incorporate allowable subject matter and are therefore in condition for allowance. Accordingly, allowance of the instant application is respectfully submitted to be justified at this time, and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By


Steven R. Biren, Reg. 26,531
Patent Attorney
(914) 333-9630

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

It is hereby certified that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to:

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS,
Alexandria, VA 22313

On

3/21/05

By

